

# WOR

5. Grubs that gnaw wood and furniture.  
Tis no awkward claim,  
Pick'd from the worm-holes of long vanish'd days,  
Nor from the dust of old oblivion rak'd. *Shakep. Hen. V.*
6. Something tormenting.  
The worm of conscience still begnaw thy soul. *Shakep.*  
The chains of darkness, and th' undying worm. *Milton.*
7. Any thing vermiculated, or turned round; any thing spiral.  
The threads of screws, when bigger than can be made in  
screw-plates, are called worms. The length of a worm begins  
at the one end of the spindle, and ends at the other; the  
breadth of the worm is contained between any two grooves on  
the spindle; the depth of the worm is cut into the diameter  
of the spindle, viz. the depth between the outside of the  
worm, and the bottom of the groove. *Mason.*
- To WORM. *v. n.* [from the noun.] To work slowly, secretly,  
and gradually.  
When debates and fretting jealousy,  
Did worm and work within you more and more,  
Your colour faded. *Herbert.*
- To WORM. *v. a.*  
1. To drive by flow and secret means.  
They find themselves wormed out of all power, by a new  
spawn of independents, sprung from your own bowels. *Swift.*
2. To deprive a dog of something, nobody knows what, under  
his tongue, which is said to prevent him, nobody knows  
why, from running mad.  
Every one that keepeth a dog, should have him wormed. *Mort.*
- WORMEATEN. *adj.* [worm and eaten.]  
1. Gnawed by worms.  
For his verity in love, I do think him as concave as a cov-  
ered goblet, or a wormeaten nut. *Shakespeare.*
2. Old; worthless.  
His chamber all was hanged about with rolls,  
And old records from ancient times deriv'd;  
Some made in books, some in long parchment scrolls.  
That were all wormeaten, and full of canker holes. *Spenser.*  
Things among the Greeks, which antiquity had worn out  
of knowledge, were called ogygia, which we call wormeaten,  
or of defaced date. *Raleigh's Hist. of the World.*  
Thine's like wormeaten trunks cloath'd in seal's skin;  
Or grave, that's dust without, and stink within. *Donne.*
- WORMWOOD. *n. f.* [from its virtue to kill worms in the body.]  
Wormwood hath an indeterminate stalk, branching out into  
many small shoots, with spikes of naked flowers hanging  
downward; the leaves are hoary and bitter. Of this plant  
there are thirty-two species, one of which, the common  
wormwood, grows in the roads; but it is also planted in gar-  
dens for common use. Great variety of sea wormwoods  
are found in the salt marshes of England, and sold in the markets  
for the true Roman wormwood, though they differ greatly. *Müll.*  
She was wean'd; I had then laid  
Wormwood to my dug. *Shakep. Romeo and Juliet.*  
Pituitous Cacoethymia must be corrected by bitters, as  
wormwood wine. *Pleyer on the Humours.*  
I ask whether one be not invincibly conscious to himself of a  
different perception, when he actually tastes wormwood, or  
only thinks on that favour. *Locke.*
- WORMY. *adj.* [from worm.] Full of worms.  
Spirits that in crossways and floods have burial,  
Already to their wormy beds are gone. *Shakespeare.*  
Yet can I not persuade me thou art dead,  
Or that thy corse corrupts in earth's dark womb,  
Or that thy beauties lie in wormy bed. *Milton.*
- WORM, part. pass. of wear.  
His is a maiden shield,  
Guileless of fight; mine batter'd, hew'd and bor'd,  
Worn out of service, must forsake his lord. *Dryden.*  
What I now offer, is the wretched remainder of a tickly  
age, worn out with study, and oppress'd by fortune. *Dryden.*  
The greatest part of mankind are given up to labour,  
whose lives are worn out only in the provisions for living. *Locke.*  
Your cold hypocrisy's a stale device,  
A worn-out trick; would'st thou be thought in earnest,  
Cloath thy feign'd zeal in rage, in fire, in fury. *Addison.*
- WORMIL. *n. f.*  
In the backs of cows in the summer, are maggots gener-  
ated, which in Essex we call wormils, being first only a small  
knot in the skin. *Derham's Physico-Theology.*
- To WORMY. *v. a.* [wormen, Saxon:] whence probably the  
word *wormy*.  
1. To tear, or mangle, as a beast tears its prey.  
If we with thrice such powers left at home,  
Cannot defend our own doors from the dogs,  
Let us be worm'd. *Shakep. Hen. V.*  
The fury of the tumults might fly so high as to worry and  
tear those in pieces, whom as yet they but play'd with in  
their paws. *K. Charles.*
2. Tis no new thing for the dogs that are to keep the wolves  
from worrying the sheep, to be deliver'd up to the enemy,  
for fear the sheep should worry the wolves. *L'Estrange.*

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- This revives and imitates that inhuman barbarity of the  
old heathen persecutors, wrapping up christians in the skins  
of wild beasts, that so they might be worried and torn in  
pieces by dogs. *South's Sermons.*
2. To harass, or persecute brutally.  
Then embraces his son-in-law; then again worries he his  
daughter with clipping her. *Shakep. Winter's Tale.*  
For want of words, or lack of breath,  
Witness when I was worried with thy peals. *Milton.*  
It has pleas'd Providence at length to give us righteousness  
instead of exaction, and hopes of religion to a church worried  
with reformation. *South's Sermons.*
  - All his care  
Was to preserve me from the barbarous rage,  
Which worried him only for being mine. *Southen.*  
I shall not suffer him to worry any man's reputation, nor  
indeed fall on any person whatsoever. *Addison.*
  - Let them rail,  
And then worry one another at their pleasure. *Rever.*  
Madam, contrive and invent,  
And worry him out, till he gives his consent. *Swift.*
  - WORSE. *adj.* The comparative of bad: bad, worse, worst.  
[wurr, Saxon.] More bad; more ill.  
Why should he see your faces worse liking than the chil-  
dren of your sort? *David's 10.*  
Whether this or worse, love not the faithful side. *Milton.*  
In happiness and misery, the question still remains, how  
men come often to prefer the worse to the better, and to chuse  
that, which, by their own confession, has made them mis-  
erable. *Locke.*
  - WORSE. *adv.* In a manner more bad.  
The more one flickens, the worse at ease he is. *Shakep.*
  - The WORSE. *n. f.* [from the adjective.]  
1. The loss; not the advantage; not the better.  
Was never man, who most conquests achiev'd,  
But sometimes had the worse, and lost by war. *Spenser.*  
Judah was put to the worse before Israel; and they fell to  
their tents. *2 Kings xiv. 12.*
  2. Something less good.  
A man, whatever are his professions, always thinks the  
worse of a woman, who forgives him for making an attempt  
on her virtue. *Clarissa.*
  - To WORSE. *v. a.* [from the adjective.] To put to disadvan-  
tage. This word, though analogical enough, is not now used.  
Perhaps more valid arms,  
Weapons more violent, when next we meet,  
May serve to better us, and worse our foes. *Milton.*
  - WORSER. *adj.* A barbarous word, formed by corrupting worse  
with the usual comparative termination.  
Gods! take my breath from me;  
Let not my worse spirit tempt me again  
To die before you please. *Shakespeare.*
  - WORTH. *n. f.* [worth, Saxon.]  
1. Dignity; eminence; excellence.  
Thou madest him lower than the angels, to crown him  
with glory and worth. *Pf. viii. 5.*  
Elfin born of noble state,  
And muckle worth in his native land,  
Well could he tourney, and in lists debate. *Faery Queen.*  
My train are men of choice, and rarest parts,  
That all particulars of duty know;  
And in the most exact regard support  
The worship of their names. *Shakespeare's King Lear.*
  2. A character of honour.  
I belong to worship, and affect  
In honour, honesty. *Shakespeare's Hen. VIII.*  
Dinner is on table; my father desires your worship's com-  
pany. *Shakep. Merry Wives of Windsor.*  
The old Romans freedom did bestow,  
Our princes worship with a blow. *Hudibras.*  
What lands and lordships for their owner know  
My quondam barber, but his worship now. *Dryden.*
  3. A term of ironical respect.  
Against your worship, when had S-k writ?  
Or P-ge pour'd forth the torrent of his wit? *Pope.*
  4. Adoration; religious act of reverence.  
They join their vocal worship to the quire  
Of creatures wanting voice. *Milton.*  
He wav'd a torch aloft, and, madly vain,  
Sought godlike worship from a servile train.  
The worship of God is an eminent part of religion, and  
prayer is a chief part of religious worship: hence religion is  
described by seeking God. *Trilsson.*  
There were several inroads into Germany, particularly a  
voyage of the Egyptians under Othris up the Danube; from  
them the Suedi had their worship of Isis. *Arbuthnot.*
  5. Honour; respect; civil deference.  
The humble guest shall have worship in the presence of those  
who sit at meat with him. *Luke xiv. 10.*  
Since

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- Since God hath appointed government among men, it is  
plain that his intention was, that some kind of worship  
should be given from some to others; for where there is a  
power to punish and reward, there is a foundation of worship  
power to punish and reward; which worship lies in ex-  
treme of due regard to that power, by a care not to provoke  
prejudice a due regard to that power, by a care not to provoke  
it, and an endeavour to obtain the favour of it, which,  
among mankind, is called civil worship. *Stillingfleet.*
6. Idolatry of lovers.  
Tis not your inky brows, your black silk hair,  
Your bugle eyeballs, nor your cheek of cream  
That can entame my spirits to your worship. *Shakespeare.*
  - To WORSHIP. *v. a.* [from the noun.]  
1. To adore; to honour or venerate with religious rites.  
Thou shalt worship no other God. *Exod. xxxiv. 14.*  
Let no man beguile you of your reward, in a voluntary hu-  
mility and worshipping of angels. *Col. ii. 18.*  
Adore and worship God Supreme. *Milton.*  
First worship God; he that forgets to pray,  
Bids not himself good-morrow nor good-day. *T. Randolph.*  
On the smooth rind the passenger shall see  
Thy name engrav'd, and worship Helen's tree. *Dryden.*
  2. To respect; to honour; to treat with civil reverence.  
Our grave,  
Like Turkish mutes, shall have a tongueless mouth,  
Not worshipp'd with a waxen epitaph. *Shakep. Henry V.*
  - To WORSHIP. *v. n.* To perform acts of adoration.  
I and the lad will go yonder and worship. *Gen. xxii. 5.*  
The people went to worship before the golden calf. *1 Kings.*
  - WORSHIPFUL. *adj.* [worship and full.]  
1. Claiming respect by any character or dignity.  
This is worshipful society,  
And fits the mounting spirit like myself. *Shakespeare.*  
When old age comes upon him, it comes alone, bringing  
no other evil with it; but when it comes to wait upon a great  
and worshipful dinner, who for many years has ate well and  
done ill, it is attended with a long train of rheums. *South.*
  2. A term of ironical respect.  
Every man would think me an hypocrite indeed; and  
what excites your most worshipful thought to think so?  
Suppose this worshipful idol be made, yet still it wants sense  
and motion. *Stillingfleet.*
  - WORSHIPFULLY. *adv.* [from worshipful.] Respectfully.  
Hastings will lose his head, ere give consent,  
His master's son, as worshipfully he terms it,  
Shall lose the royalty of England's throne. *Shakespeare.*
  - WORSHIPPER. *n. f.* [from worship.] Adorer; one that wor-  
ships.  
What art thou, thou idol ceremony?  
What kind of god art thou that suffer'st more  
Of mortal griefs, than do thy worshippers. *Shakep. Henry V.*  
These places did not confine the immensity of God, nor  
give his worshippers a nearer approach to heaven by their height.
  - If posterity takes its notions of us from our medals, they  
must fancy one of our kings paid a great devotion to Minerva,  
that another was a professed worshipper of Apollo. *Addison.*
  - WORST. *adj.* The superlative of bad, formed from worse: bad,  
worse, worst. Most bad; most ill.  
If thou hadst not been born the worst of men,  
Thou hadst been knave and flatterer. *Shakespeare.*  
The pain that any one actually feels is still of all other the  
worst; and it is with anguish they cry out.  
Worst. *n. f.* The most calamitous or wicked state; the ut-  
most height or degree of any thing ill.  
Who isn't can say, I'm at the worst?  
I'm worse than e'er I was,  
And worse I may be yet: the worst is not,  
So long as we can say, this is the worst. *Shakespeare.*  
That you may be armed against the worst in this unhappy  
state of affairs in our distressed country, I send you these con-  
siderations on the nature and immortality of the soul. *Digby.*
  - Happy the man, and happy he alone,  
He, who can call to-day his own:  
He who secure within can say,  
To-morrow do thy worst, for I have liv'd to day. *Dryden.*  
Sir Roger gets into the frontiers of his estate, before he  
beats about in search of a hare, on purpose to spare his own  
fields, where he is always sure of finding diversion when the  
worst comes to the worst. *Addison's Spectator.*
  - To WORST. *v. a.* [from the adjective.] To defeat; to over-  
throw.  
The case will be no worse than where two duellists enter  
the field, where the worst party hath his sword given him.  
The bear was in a greater fright,  
Bear down and worsted by the knight. *Hudibras.*  
It is downright madness to contend where we are sure to be  
worsted. *L'Estrange.*  
The victorious Philistines were worsted by the captivated

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- ark, which foraged their country more than a conquering ar-  
my. *South's Sermons.*  
She could have brought the chariot again, when the saw her  
brother worsted in the duel. *Dryden's Dods l. 1.*
- WO'RTSD. *n. f.* [from *Worsted*, a town in Norfolk famous  
for the woolen manufacture.] Woolen yarn; wool spun.  
A bafe, proud, shallow, beggarly three suited, hundred  
pound, filthy worsted-stocking knave. *Shakespeare's King Lear.*  
There Ridpath, Roper cudgel'd might ye view;  
The very worst'd still look'd black and blue. *Pope.*
- WORT. *n. f.* [wurr, Saxon; wort, Dutch.]  
1. Originally a general name for an herb; whence it still contin-  
ues in many, as *liverwort*, *spikenard*.  
2. A plant of the cabbage kind.  
3. [burr, Saxon.] New beer either unfermented, or in the  
act of fermentation.  
If in the wort of beer, while it worketh, before it be tunned,  
the burrage be often changed with fresh, it will make a fo-  
vereign drink for mela-choly. *Boon's Natural History.*
- WORTH. *v. n.* [worth, Saxon.] To be. This  
word is only now retained in *wo worth*, or *worth*; *wo be*.  
Wo worth the man  
That first did teach the curled steel to bite  
In his own flesh, and make way to the living spirit. *F. Q.*
- WORTH. In the termination of the names of places comes from  
worth, a court or farm, or *port*, a street or road. *Giffon.*
- WORTH. *n. f.* [worth, Saxon.]  
1. Price; value.  
Your clemency will take in good worth the offer of these  
my simple and mean labours. *Hooker.*  
What is worth in any thing,  
But so much money as 'twill bring? *Hudibras.*  
A common marcalite shall have the colour of gold exactly;  
and yet upon trial yield nothing of worth but vitriol and gal-  
phur. *Woodward's Natural History.*- 2. Excellence; virtue.  
How can you him unworthy then decree;  
In whose chief part your worths implanted be. *Sidney.*  
Is there any man of worth and virtue, although not instruct-  
ed in the schol of Christ, that had not rather end the days  
of this transitory life as Cyrus, than to sink down with them  
of whom Elihu hath said, *memoria moriantur*. *Hooker.*  
Having from these suck'd all they had of worth,  
And brought home that faith which you carried forth,  
I thoroughly love. *Donne.*  
Her virtue, and the conscience of her worth  
That would be woo'd. *Milton.*  
A nymph of your own train  
Gives us your character in such a strain,  
As none but she, who in that court did dwell,  
Could know such worth, or worth describe so well. *Waller.*
- 3. Importance; valuable quality.  
Peradventure those things whereupon so much time was  
then well spent, have fithence that lost their dignity and worth.  
Hooker.
- Take a man possessed with a strong desire of any thing,  
and the worth and excellency of that thing appears much  
greater than when that desire is quite extinguish'd. *South's Ser.*
- WORTH. *adj.*  
1. Equal in price to, equal in value to.  
Women will love her that she is a woman,  
More worth than any man: men that she is  
The rarest of all women. *Shakespeare's Winter's Tale.*  
Your son and daughter found this trespass worth  
The shame which here it fulfurs. *Shakespeare.*  
You have not thought it worth your labour to enter a pro-  
fessed dissent against a philosophy, which the greatest part of  
the virtuosi of Europe have deserted, as a mere maze of words.  
*Carville's Sceptick.*  
As if 'tis nothing worth that lies conceal'd;  
And science is not science till reveal'd? *Dryden.*  
At Geneva are merchants reckoned worth twenty hundred  
thousand crowns. *Addison's Italy.*  
It is worth while to consider how admirably he has turned  
the course of his narration, and made his husbandman con-  
cerned even in what relates to the battle. *Addison.*
- 2. Deserving of.  
The cattle appeared to be a place worth the keeping, and  
capable to be made secure against a good army. *Clarendon.*  
Here we may reign secure, and, in my choice,  
To reign is worth ambition, though in hell. *Milton.*  
Faste hither Eve, and worth thy sight behold,  
Eastward among those trees, what glorious shape  
Comes this way moving. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*  
Whatsoever  
Is worthy of their love is worth their anger. *Denham.*  
This is life indeed; life worth preserving;  
Such life as Juba never felt till now. *Addison's Cato.*  
I have long had it in my thoughts to trouble you with a let-  
ter; but was discouraged for want of something that I could  
think worth sending fifteen hundred miles. *Berkeley to Pope.*  
Many